PENNSYLVANIA LESBIAN/GAY SUPPORT NETWORK

VOL. III No. 1

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1980

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY JANUARY 19th, 1PM

FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE, 6th & HERR Sts., HARRISBURG

AT OUR LAST MEETING

The treasurer reported a balance of $118, most of which came from Newsletter subscribers. We would like to thank those people, and encourage others, who have not yet subscribed, to do the same. Further fundraising is underway, see **SPECIAL NOTES** for details.

A report was given by the co-chairs of **PRIDE '80** on possible sites and dates. Motions were made and passed authorizing Mary and Rodger to contract with the Holiday In Town (Harrisburg) for the weekend of October 3,4,5 for **PRIDE '80.** It is not too early to make plans, so keep that weekend open. The costs for attending the conference should be about the same as for PRIDE '79.

The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the Spring primaries, how the Network wants to get involved, and what specific things we can do. We agreed to gather information on candidates, compile possible questions which would go to various office-seekers, and to contact other human rights groups to determine their issues and how we might cooperate with them. Several people volunteered to begin this work. Our general plan is for the Network to help local groups coordinate in a state-wide effort aimed at state-wide candidates. Also, we hope to assist, where possible, with local races which may have state impact, but that will be primarily the responsibility of groups in each area.

Prior to the regular meeting, the Executive Committee met briefly. The Co-chairs outlined how they hoped to operate, and which committee members had taken on specific tasks. The Executive Committee will meet following the January meeting, for about an hour, to discuss ongoing fundraising needs and the filling of Regional Coordinator vacancies.

SPECIAL NOTES

ALLENTOWN BENEFIT

On Wednesday February 20th, a benefit for the Network will be held in Allentown. Folksinger Sharon Ettinger will perform, and the donation at the door will be $3.00. The event is being held at *Rosemary's*, 2317 Hanover Ave., Allentown, where a very successful benefit for PRIDE '79 was held last Spring. If you can help out, contact Dianna (regional Coordinator for that area) at the Allentown Gayline, (215) 435-1314.

PAT BOND RETURNS!

The star of PRIDE '79, and the film *Word is Out*, will be in Pennsylvania for a series of benefits in early Spring. Friday March 14th she will be performing *An Evening With Gertrude Stein*, an acclaimed one-woman reminiscence, in the auditorium of the Christian Association, 3601 Locust Walk, Philadelphia. Tickets are $6.00, and all proceeds go to the Network. This special concert, starting at 8PM, is being presented in conjunction with the Philadelphia Gay Cultural Festival. On the following two evenings, Pat will present her *Conversations With Pat Bond* in Harrisburg (Saturday evening) and Pittsburgh (Sunday evening). Next month's issue of this newsletter will have complete details, as well as where tickets may be purchased. If you want to help with preparations, contact the Regional Coordiantor in your area, or write to the Network at the address below.

NAMES IN THE NEWSLETTER

The Network recognizes the need for anonymity by some of its members. It is unfortunate, but homophobia still pervades many employers and families. We do not print any name without permission, but that permission is extended ONLY to this newsletter. We would like to remind our readers that they may not reprint, in any publication, these names without first receiving approval from the person involved.

AT OUR NEXT MEETING

The two major items of business, at the January 19th meeting, will be the Spring primaries and **PRIDE '80.** We will be discussing what we'd like to have on questionaires to state candidates and on which specific races we might want to concentrate. Reports will be given on the progress of the information gathering. Preliminary ideas for the theme of **PRIDE '80** will be discussed. We encourage all interested parties to attend, or to get their ideas to us, so that the annual state conference can reflect the widest possible needs and interests of the Pennsylvania Lesbian/Gay community.

In Case Of Bad Weather

If you are not sure whether weather has caused the meeting to be cancelled, contact the following person in your area, either the Friday evening before or the Saturday morning of the meeting:

In Western Pennsylvania—
John Zinsmeister, (412) 665-0710
or
Pittsburgh Gayline, (412) 241-2550

In Central Pennsylvania—
Rodger Beatty, (717) 675-1812
or
Harrisburg Gay Switchboard (717) 234-0328

In Northeast Pennsylvania (Lehigh Valley, etc.)—
Dianna Muros at Allentown Gayline, (215) 435-1314

In Southeastern Pennsylvania—
George Bodamer, Jr., (215) 379-3416

PENNSYLVANIA NOTES

WILLIAMSPORT

In August 1978, a certain second-rate singer, peddler of orange juice and renowned homophobe was invited to sing at the Bloomsburg State Fair. One of the officers of Homophiles of Williamsport (HOW) was invited to speak on local television to counter the lies and hatred that Bryant takes such relish in spreading. Unfortunately, her propoganda found several disciples who began making middle-of-the night harrassing and threatening phone calls to Dan. Soon thereafter, these local 'toughs' took their activities to Dan's front yard, taunting him and trashing his property. Local authorities promised assistance, but their efforts were insufficient.

By this past Fall, Dan was no longer safe in his own home. Around Thanksgiving his house was severly vandalized, doors and windows were smashed, and Dan was driven out of his home. He has since been able to sell the house, at a substantial loss, and has relocated several miles outside Williamsport.

HOW has lost much of its membership and support. They are quite frankly scared, and small Pennsylvania towns do not offer the anonymous safety which can be found in large cities. What all this means for the future of the Lesbian/Gay community in Williamsport remains, at present, unclear. We are requesting that all our members take a few minutes to write to Dan and HOW, letting them know that we support them and that they are not alone. Additional actions are being planned. Write to Dan M., c/o HOW, P.O. Box 1072, Williamsport, Penna. 17701.

SOME VERY SAD NEWS

The Philadelphia Lesbian/Gay community was genuinely shocked and saddened to learn of the death, on December 22nd, of Claudia Scott. Network members will remember her from her involvement in the state Hotline Association and her participation in PRIDE '79. Claudia had been active with the Lesbian Hotline, Sisterspace, the American Library Association Gay Liberation Task Force, and the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia. She was responsible for developing the manual and training programs of the Lesbian Hotline, organizing numerous writers' workshops, and was an accomplished writer of poetry. Her friends, acquaintances, and even those touched indirectly by her work, will not soon forget Claudia Scott and her committemnt to making some parts of this world better places in which Lesbians and Gays might live.

P.O. Box 4031 ALLENTOWN, PA. 18105

(clip here and mail to: Pa. Lesbian/Gay Support Network - P.O. Box 4031, Allentown, Pa. 18105)

( ) I am enclosing $5.00 for a one year subscription to the Network newsletter
( ) I would like to support the work of the Network with a contribution of $

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(all information on this form will be kept confidential)